

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a communications link between a client and a
3 server;
4 receiving applet information by the client from the server;
5 establishing a communications link between the client and a
6 service using the applet information; and
7 directing user interface I/O control of the service to the client
8 using the applet information.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 using a URL.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 opening an internet protocol connection between the client and the
4 server.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes

3 confirming user access privileges for communicating between the
4 client and the server.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of
2 receiving configuration data by the client; and
3 configuring attributes of the client using the configuration data
4 to provide a user-specific user interface to the client.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the service includes
3 accessing the service using a proxy.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of directing user
2 interface I/O control includes directing user interface I/O control of
3 the service to an applet on the client.

1 8. A method comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a communications link between a client and a
3 server;
4 downloading configuration data from the master server to the
5 client;

6 configuring attributes of the client using the configuration ~~data~~;
7 establishing a communications link between the client and a
8 service using the configured client; and
9 directing ~~user interface~~ I/O control of the service to the
10 configured client.

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1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 using a URL.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 opening an internet protocol connection between the client and the
4 server.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 confirming user access privileges for communicating between the
4 client and the server.

1 12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of

2 receiving configuration data by the client; and
3 configuring attributes of the client using the configuration data
4 to provide a user-specific user interface to the client.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the service includes
3 accessing the service using a proxy.

1 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of directing user
2 interface I/O control includes directing user interface I/O control of
3 the service to an applet on the client.

1 15. A system comprising:
2 means for establishing a communications link between a client
3 and a server;
4 means for receiving applet information by the client from the
5 server;
6 means for establishing a communications link between the
7 client and a service using the applet information; and
8 means for directing user interface I/O control of the service to
9 the client using the applet information.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for using a URL.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for opening an internet protocol connection between the client
4 and the server.

1 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for confirming user access privileges for communicating
4 between the client and the server.

1 19. The system of claim 15, further comprising
2 means for receiving configuration data by the client; and
3 means for configuring attributes of the client using the
4 configuration data to provide a user-specific user interface to the
5 client.

1 20. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the service includes
3 means for accessing the service using a proxy.

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1 21. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for directing user
2 interface I/O control includes means for directing user interface I/O
3 control of the service to an applet on the client.

1 22. A system comprising:
2 means for establishing a communications link between a client
3 and a server;
4 means for downloading configuration data from the master
5 server to the client;
6 means for configuring attributes of the client using the
7 configuration data;
8 means for establishing a communications link between the
9 client and a service using the configured client; and
10 means for directing user interface I/O control of the service to
11 the configured client.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for using a URL.

1 24. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for opening an internet protocol connection between the client
4 and the server.

1 25. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the server includes
3 means for confirming user access privileges for communicating
4 between the client and the server.

1 26. The system of claim 22, further comprising
2 means for receiving configuration data by the client; and
3 means for configuring attributes of the client using the
4 configuration data to provide a user-specific user interface to the
5 client.

1 27. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for establishing a
2 communications link between the client and the service includes
3 means for accessing the service using a proxy.

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1 28. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for directing user
2 interface I/O control includes means for directing user interface I/O
3 control of the service to an applet on the client.

1 29. A computer-readable medium for storing a program for
2 causing a computer to perform the steps of:
3 establishing a communications link between a client and a
4 server;
5 receiving applet information by the client from the server;
6 establishing a communications link between the client and a
7 service using the applet information; and
8 directing user interface I/O control of the service to the client
9 using the applet information.

1 30. A computer-readable medium for storing a program for
2 causing a computer to perform the steps of:
3 establishing a communications link between a client and a
4 server;

5 downloading configuration data from the master server to the
6 client;
7 configuring attributes of the client using the configuration data;
8 establishing a communications link between the client and a
9 service using the configured client; and
10 directing user interface I/O control of the service to the
11 configured client.

1 31. A system comprising:
2 a communications engine for establishing a communications
3 link with a server;
4 a browser, coupled to the communications engine, for receiving
5 applet information corresponding to a service from the server; and
6 an applet engine for using the applet information to control
7 user interface I/O of the service.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the communications engine
2 establishes a communications link between the client and the server
3 using a URL.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the communications engine
2 establishes a communications link between the client and the server

3 by opening an internet protocol connection between the client and
4 the server.

1 34. The system of claim 31, wherein the communications engine
2 confirms user access privileges for communicating between the client
3 and the server before establishing a communications link between
4 the client and the server.

1 35. The system of claim 31, wherein the communications engine
2 receives configuration data, and further comprising a configuration
3 engine for configuring attributes of the client using the configuration
4 data to provide a user-specific user interface to the client.

1 36. The system of claim 31, wherein the applet engine establishes
2 a communications link between the client and the service via a
3 proxy.

1 37. The system of claim 31, further comprising an applet and
2 wherein the applet engine uses the applet to direct user interface I/O
3 control of the service to the applet.

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1 38. A system comprising:
2 downloadable applet information corresponding to
3 downloadable applets for enabling a client to control user interface
4 I/O of a service;
5 a communications engine for downloading the applet
6 information across a communications link to the client; and
7 an applet host engine for enabling a downloaded one of the
8 downloadable applets to direct user interface I/O control of the
9 service to the client.

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1 39. The system of claim *38*, further comprising configuration data
2 for configuring the client to provide the client with a consistent user
3 interface for controlling the service.

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1 40. The system of claim *38*, wherein the communications engine
2 establishes a communications link with the client across an internet.

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1 41. The system of claim *38*, wherein the communications engine
2 confirms user access privileges for receiving communications from
3 the client.

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42. The system of claim 38, wherein the applet host engine
2 provides a proxy service to direct user interface I/O control to the
3 client.

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